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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT NO.	
TOPIC	Medium Tank Regiment in Oranienburg of Mechanized Division Potsdam 25X1A		
EVALUATION	25X1X	PLACE OBTAINED	25X1A
DATE OF CONTENT	12 August 1953 to 2 March 1954		
DATE OBTAINED		DATE PREPARED	4 May 1954
REFERENCES	25X1A		
PAGES	2	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)	
REMARKS			

SOURCE   25X1X1. Designation and Subordination

The medium tank regiment was subordinate to Mechanized Division Potsdam,   25X1

  The unit was also referred to as KVPD Oranienburg III which did not have an office number. The regiment was quartered in a section of the former Sachsenhausen concentration camp. The service colors were blue epaulets with EM and black-bordered blue epaulets with officers. <sup>1</sup>

2. Organization and Strength

Headquarters		32 officers, 4 NCOs, 13 EM
Supply platoon	about	1 officer, 3 NCOs, 40 EM
Headquarters company	about	8 officers, 12 NCOs, 80 EM
AAA machine gun company	about	3 officers, 5 NCOs, 20 EM
I Tank Bn	about	12 officers, 12 NCOs, 75 EM
II Tank Bn	about	12 officers, 12 NCOs, 75 EM
III Tank Bn	about	12 officers, 12 NCOs, 75 EM
Submachine gun battalion	about	2 officers, 30 NCOs, 120 EM
Total	about	82 officers, 90 NCOs, 498 EM

These strengths were reported at roll call on 2 March 1954. The difference between these ration strengths and the actual strengths did not exceed 20 men. The actual strengths had not been reached. The tank battalions were organized into 2 companies each, with 3 platoons to each company. The battalions were to be assigned a third company. <sup>2</sup>

3. Headquarters

Major Guenther Dobert, regimental commander  
 Captain Gaertner (fnu), deputy regimental commander  
 Captain Eugen Schiller, chief of staff  
 Captain Karl Herbst, deputy polit officer  
 Major Horst Hoffmann, deputy supply officer  
 Senior Lieutenant Karl-Heinz Wegner, commanding officer of I Bn  
 Senior Lieutenant Kaemmer (fnu), commanding officer of II Bn  
 Captain Koehler (fnu), commanding officer of III Bn  
 Senior Lieutenant Erdmann (fnu), commanding officer of submachine gun battalion

Two Soviet lieutenant colonels wearing KVP uniform were assigned to the regiment as advisers.

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4. Armament

The regiment was equipped with 12 T-34/76 tanks including 7 from Zeithain and 5 from Burg; 80 T-34/85 tanks from Frora, Eggesin and Burg; 6 armored personnel carriers and 2 armored scout cars. The T-34/76s were used as training vehicles and the T-34/85s as operational vehicles. The tanks were in bad condition. They were used in World War II. The regiment was to receive more tanks. <sup>2</sup>

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6. Year Classes

The personnel of the regiment included about 5 percent of the 1936 class, about 25 percent of the 1935 class, about 40 percent of the 1934 class, about 15 percent of the 1933 class and about 15 percent of older classes.

7. Composition. The personnel included about 25 percent from Saxony-Anhalt, about 10 percent from Saxony, about 5 percent from Thuringia, about 50 percent from Mecklenburg, about 5 percent from Brandenburg and about 5 percent from Berlin.8. Political Reliability

About 20 percent were loyal to the regime, about 15 percent were indifferent and about 65 percent displayed passive resistance.

9. Miscellaneous

Source learned from Major Dobert, the regimental commander, that the transportation police had been subordinate to the KVP since March 1954. <sup>3</sup>

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1. [ ]

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2. [ ] Comment. It is believed that the third companies planned for the tank battalions cannot be activated at present because of the high number of vacancies in personnel. The regiment is also short of the SP gun battalion which, according to the Soviet pattern, is included in the T/O. On the other hand, the regiment has a surplus of 27 tanks which are not provided for in the present T/O. It is believed that more tanks will be assigned only after an increase of the personnel strength. It is also possible that tanks in want of repair will be replaced.

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3. [ ] Comment. According to other sources, the transportation police, having been reorganized into Abschnitte (sectors) and companies, was to be subordinated to the KVP after January 1954. Further information indicated that this transfer was to be completed by June 1954.

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